



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
PREMARITAL MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FORM  
(GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 207)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(No.) (Street)  
\_\_\_\_\_, a physician registered or licensed to practice in the  
(City or Town)  
State or Territory of \_\_\_\_\_ certify that on \_\_\_\_\_ I examined  
(Date)  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (No.) (Street) (City/Town) (State)  
This examination included a serologic test for syphilis taken on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)  
and performed at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and address of laboratory)

I also certify that (in the case of a female):

( ) a test for susceptibility to rubella was performed and the patient was informed of  
the significance of the results. This test was performed by  
\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and address of laboratory) (Date)

OR

( ) a test for susceptibility to rubella was not performed because of patient refusal or  
absences of medical indication.

In view of the medical history, physical examination, and blood test report, it is in my  
opinion that the person whose signature appears below is not prohibited from receiving  
a certificate under the provisions of Chapter 207 Section 28A

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant)

(To be signed in the presence of a physician or designee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Physician)

**AIDS EDUCATION**

As required pursuant to Massachusetts regulations 105CMR 300.300, I hereby certify that  
I have discussed the contents of AIDS educational materials developed and distributed  
by the Department of Public Health for marriage license applicants.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant)

(To be signed in the presence of a physician or designee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Physician or designee)

Section 28A (as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1974). Except as hereinafter provided, a certificate shall not be issued by the Clerk or registrar under section twenty-eight until he has received from each party to the intended marriage a medical certificate signed by a qualified physician registered and practicing in the commonwealth, a physician registered or licensed to practice in any other state or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or a commissioned medical officer on active service in the armed forces or the public health service of the United States, or a qualified physician registered and practicing in Canada, who has examined such party hereinafter provided. Such examination shall be made only to ascertain the presence or absence of syphilis, and shall include a serological test for syphilis. Said test shall be made by a laboratory of the department of public health, or by a laboratory meeting standards approved by said department, or if not located in within the commonwealth, acceptable to said department. The examination by such physician and the laboratory test shall be made not more than thirty days before a certificate is issued under section twenty-eight. If such physician, in making such examination, discovers evidence of syphilis, he shall inform both parties to the intended marriage of the nature of such disease and the possibilities of transmitting such infection to his or her marital partner or to their children. The physician shall also certify on forms provided by said department that the applicant therein named has been given an examination, including a serological test for syphilis, on a day specified in the statement, and that, in the opinion of the physician, the person named therein is not infected with syphilis, or, if so infected, is not in a stage which is communicable, but if such infection is communicable, no such certificate shall be issued. Blank forms of medical certificates required under this section shall be furnished to city and town clerks and others by said department of public health of any other state or territory in the United States, the District of Columbia, and Canada shall be deemed acceptable, provided they are signed by a qualified physician licensed and practicing in the areas mentioned, and certifying that, on the basis of a public health of this commonwealth, the person therein named does not have syphilis, or, if so infected, is not in a stage which is communicable. The name of the laboratory performing the test shall appear upon the medical certificate. The clerk or registrar receiving such medical certificates in the case of an intended marriage shall endorse on the certificate to be issued by him under section twenty-eight in relation to the marriage a statement that such medical certificates have been received. In emergency cases where the death of either party to the intended marriage is imminent, or where the female is near the termination of her pregnancy, upon the authoritative request of a minister, clergyman, priest, rabbi or attending physician, the clerk or registrar may issue a certificate under section twenty-eight without having received the medical certificate, or having endorsed on his certificate a statement of such receipt, as provided by this section. Whoever, being subject to the laws of the commonwealth, fails to comply with any provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars.

Prior to issuing a certificate to a female under section twenty-eight, the clerk or registrar shall also require from the physician signing the medical certificate required under the first paragraph certification that such female has (1) been tested and found immune to rubella infection, or (2) if tested and not found to be immune to rubella infection, been advised of the risks of contracting rubella during childbearing years and of the availability of an immunizing vaccine and of the risks involved in such immunization if there is a possibility of pregnancy at the time of or within four months of receiving the vaccine and has been advised of the advisability of receiving a pregnancy test, or (3) if not tested, been offered a test to determine immunity to rubella infection and has been advised of the risks of contracting rubella during childbearing years and of the immunizing vaccine available to eliminate or protect against such risks. Any such tests performed shall include a recognized serological test made by a laboratory meeting the requirements specified in the first paragraph and may be done in conjunction with the serological test for syphilis. The requirement of this paragraph shall not apply, if there is certification by a physician that the female is past the childbearing age or incapable of conception.

#### **Rules and Regulations Relative to Issuance of Premarital Medical Certificates**

1. Communicable syphilis is defined as primary, secondary, and early latent stages of syphilis
2. The serologic tests for syphilis and rubella acceptable to the Department shall be those tests performed by any of the following approved laboratories:
  - A. Massachusetts laboratories approved under the laboratory approval program pursuant to G.L.c.111.s.184A and 105 CMR 380.000 or licensed or approved under G.L. c.111 D;
  - B. Laboratories of the Armed Forces, Public Health Service, and Veterans Administration of the United States;
  - C. Laboratories in other states that are certified by the United States Health Care Financing Administration under Medicare (Title 20) or licensed under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act of 1967 (Title 42);
  - D. Laboratories licensed, certified or approved by, as well as operated by, or for, a State Department of Public Health, District of Columbia, New York City, or Territorial Health Department of the United States;
  - E. Laboratories of the Provincial Health Departments of Canada
3.
  - A. In the event that the serological test for syphilis is reactive, a physical examination or other appropriate laboratory test to assess the stage of syphilis, if present, shall be conducted.
  - B. A physician shall issue the premarital certificate when the patient with communicable syphilis has received, in the opinion of the physician, adequate treatment. The physician shall also inform both parties to the intended marriage of the nature of the disease and of the possibilities of transmitting such infection to his or her marital partner or to their children.

Both parties must appear in person to file notice of intentions to marriage (MGL c.207, sec. 19 et seq.) whether resident or non-resident with exception by reason of illness or service in the armed forces.

In cases where one or both of the parties are in the Armed Forces, such notice may be given by either, provided that one is a resident of Massachusetts.

There is a three day waiting period from the date of application to the date of issuance of the license, unless waived. The wedding may take place within sixty days of the filing of intentions.